

5th December, 1959.

COCOM Document 3717.20/1

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

ON

ITEM 1720 - COBALT COMPOUNDS

27th and 30th November, 1959

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Docs. Nos. 3700.4 and 8, 3716.48/1, 3717.00/1, W.P. 1648/1 - 4 and 1720/1.

1. The BELGIAN Delegation proposed that Item 1720 be deleted from embargo.
2. The COMMITTEE noted that this item was closely linked with Item 1648, and that the positions of the CANADIAN, ITALIAN, NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM and UNITED STATES Delegations were identical to those described in the relevant document concerning cobalt (COCOM Doc. No. 3716.48/1).
3. The FRENCH Delegation, however, felt that the problem was different in the case of cobalt compounds. They explained that it was possible but extremely difficult and expensive to extract cobalt from such compounds, and it would seem that the Bloc wanted the pure metal only. They were not therefore opposed to the deletion of this item.
4. The GERMAN Delegation also considered this problem to be a different one, and undertook to make known their final position during the second round of discussion.
5. The JAPANESE Delegation had already indicated their acceptance of the Belgian proposal in COCOM Doc. No. 3700.8.
6. The UNITED STATES Delegation felt that if cobalt compounds were released from embargo, the control applied in the case of the metal would inevitably be frustrated, and that the same arguments were valid in both instances.
7. CONCLUSION : The COMMITTEE noted that agreement had not been reached on Item 1720 and agreed to resume study of it during the second round of discussion.

SPG.